

view Inai (U.S. Patent No. 6,055,565); Hosoe (U.S. Patent No. 6,047,376); Ozaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,991,798); or Dunworth et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,930,474).

The rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection of the claims as being unpatentable over Inai, Hosoe or Ozaki et al., these cited patents are not references since the priority date of the present application of February 18, 1997, predates Inai having a filing date of April 1, 1997, Hosoe having a filing date of March 19, 1997 and Ozaki et al. having a filing date of May 16, 1997. Therefore, these patents are not references and cannot be used in the rejection of the claims of the present application. A certified translation of the priority documents is submitted herewith to perfect the claim for foreign priority.

In light of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims as being unpatentable over Inai, Hosoe or Ozaki et al. is respectfully requested.

With respect to Dunworth et al., it is respectfully submitted that the newly submitted claims are patentable over Dunworth et al.

The invention of the present application as recited in independent claim 57 is an information acquisition apparatus for communicating with at least one information server through a communication network. The apparatus has a reading means for reading information stored in an information recording medium and an address-information acquisition means for acquiring address information initiated automatically as a result of the information being read out by the reading means. The address information corresponds to an address of the information server provided with related information related to the information recording medium. The apparatus also has a related-

information acquisition means for accessing the information server based on the address information acquired by the address-information acquisition means so that the related information related to the information recording medium can be acquired from the information server.

The invention of the present application as recited in independent claim 65 is an information acquisition apparatus for communicating with at least one information server in which related information related to an information recording medium is incorporated into a database through an Internet. The apparatus has a reading means for reading information stored in the information recording medium which stores at least one music; an address-information acquisition means for acquiring address information of a homepage used on the Internet initiated automatically as a result of the information being read out by the reading means; and a related-information acquisition means for accessing the information server based on the address information acquired by the address-information acquisition means so that at least title information of the music can be acquired as the related information related to the information recording medium from the information server.

The invention of the present application as recited in claim 66 is an information recording medium, in which information is read out by an information acquisition apparatus for communicating with at least one information server through a communication network. The medium has address-information for allowing the information acquisition apparatus to access the information server initiated automatically as a result of the information being read out by a reading means, and being stored in said medium.

The invention of the present application as recited in claim 68 is an information acquisition method for acquiring information by way of communicating with at least one information server through a communication network. The method has a reading step for reading information stored in an information recording medium, and an address-information acquisition step of acquiring address information initiated automatically as a result of the information being read out by the reading step from the information recording medium on which the address information corresponding to an address of the information server is stored. The method also has a related-information acquisition step of accessing the information server based on the address information acquired by the address-information acquisition step so that related information related to the information recording medium can be acquired from the information server.

The invention of the present application as recited in claim 75 is an information acquisition apparatus for communicating with at least one information server through a communication network. The apparatus has a reading unit for reading information stored in an information recording medium, and an address-information acquisition unit for acquiring address information initiated automatically as a result of the information being read out by the reading means. The address information corresponds to an address of the information server provided with related information related to the information recording medium. The apparatus also has a related-information acquisition unit for accessing said information server based on the address information acquired by the address-information acquisition unit so that the related information related to the information recording medium can be acquired from the information server.

The invention of the present application as recited in claim 76 is an information acquisition apparatus for communicating with at least one information server in which related information related to an information recording medium is incorporated into a database through an Internet. The apparatus has a reading unit for reading information stored in the information recording medium which stores at least one music, and an address-information acquisition unit for acquiring address information of a homepage used on the Internet initiated automatically as a result of the information being read out by the reading unit. The apparatus also has a related-information acquisition unit for accessing the information server based on the address information acquired by the address-information acquisition unit so that at least title information of the music can be acquired as the related information related to the information recording medium from the information server.

One common aspect of the invention as recited in each of the independent claims is that the claims include the limitation of an "address-information acquisition means for acquiring address information initiated automatically as a result of said information being read out by said reading means, said address information corresponding to an address of said information server provided with related information related to said information recording medium". This limitation defines the invention as automatically initiating the acquisition of address information related to information recorded on a medium when the information is read from the medium. The advantage of this limitation is that the retrieval of related information will be automatically initiated when information is read from a medium and will not require the user to initiate the retrieval of related information.

Dunworth et al. discloses a search engine which searches a database according to geographic areas and characteristics. The computer system has a computer network and an organizer which has a database and a search engine. The search engine searches this database within the organizer which is accessed through a computer network in order to find information relating to a specific entry in the database according to a geographical area. Dunworth also discloses that some of the information in the database can be stored on disc.

Dunworth et al. fails to disclose, teach or suggest an “address-information acquisition means for acquiring address information **initiated automatically as a result of said information being read out by said reading means**, said address information corresponding to an address of said information server provided with related information related to said information recording medium” as recited in the independent claims of the present application. The advantage of this limitation is that the acquisition of address information is **initiated automatically without user intervention**.

Dunworth et al. at best discloses acquiring address information **initiated by the user**. For instance in Dunworth et al., if a user wanted to access a city such as the “Greater Los Angeles Area” from a disc, the **user would select** the “Greater Los Angeles Area” from a local region or city menu. However in the invention of the present application as recited in the attached claims, the acquisition of address information is **initiated automatically** as a result of said information being read out by said reading means **without** being initiated by the user. Therefore when the reading means reads information such as the “Greater Los Angeles Area” from the disc, the address-information acquisition means is initiated and automatically acquires address

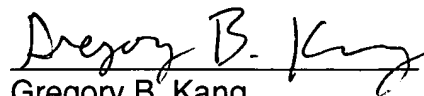
information for the "Greater Los Angeles Area" **without** being initiated by the user. Therefore Dunworth et al. at best discloses acquiring address information **initiated by the user** and fails to disclose that the acquisition of address information is **initiated automatically without user intervention** as recited in the claims of the present application.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the newly submitted claims are patentable over the cited references.

In light of the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that claims 57-76 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner does not believe that the application is in condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, an appropriate extension of time is hereby petitioned for. The fee for this petition may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, along with any other fees associated with this paper.

Respectfully submitted,



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